

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

*** PUBLIC NOTICE ***

Huntington County's Coupled Products, Inc. workers certified for federal assistance

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that employees of Huntington County's Coupled Products, Inc. are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Administered by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the federal Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) program is made available to workers who are displaced or adversely impacted due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country. Located in Andrews, Coupled Products Inc. is a subsidiary of Dana Corp. and produces power steering and other coupled automotive fluid line assemblies.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees requesting these benefits must file a petition with U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and it must be approved before benefits can be released. On June 17, 2004 and investigation was began on behalf of Coupled Products workers.

On June 17, 2004, the USDOL investigation determined that the loss of jobs at the facility was directly related to a shift in the production of power steering hose assemblies to Mexico. With the ruling, any employee of Coupled Products, who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after May 12, 2003 through the two years from the date of certification, are eligible for assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for Alternative Trade Adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50 percent of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Information sessions for workers on how to apply for TAA and ATAA are currently being planned and will be announced at a later date. Eligible parties may also contact Joe Mercheck or Janice Silkworth at 260/745-3555 ext. 361 or 362 or visit any WorkOne Center for more information.

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